

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00824 201345Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

L-03 IO-13 EB-11 NIC-01 RSR-01 /132 W

----- 130838

P R 201215Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3970

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0824

EMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BY, OO, GW

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF MURUNDI STUDENT AT BUJUMBURA AIRPORT

1. BELGIAN AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY OF INCIDENT AT BUJUMBURA AIRPORT AI 18, WHICH COULD ATTRACT SOME INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION.

2. MURUNDI STUDENT, PRESUMABLY HUTU, VENUSTE NTAHONEREYE, HAD BEEN STUDYING IN GERMANY AND WAS TRAVELING FROM BRUSSELS TO KIGALI ON SABENA, APPARENTLY TO LOOK FOR WORK IN RWANDA. FOR TECHNICAL REASONS SABENA OVERFLEW KIGALI AND LANDED BUJUMBURA. NTAHONEREYE SAID TO HAVE MADE LOUD SCENE ON AIRCRAFT, EXPRESSING FEAR OF ARREST AND ELIMINATION UPON ARRIVAL BUJUMBURA. GEB SECURITY TOOK HIM OFF PLANE ON ARRIVAL HERE. PRESIDENT MICOMBERO SHORTLY THEREAFTER CALLED BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO EXPLAIN SITUATION, AND BELGIAN AMBASSADOR WAS IMMEDIATELY ABLE CONTACT AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN OFFICE BRUSSELS. THESE APPARENTLY ADVISED OF INABILITY PROTEST DETENTION UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. BOTH BELGIAN AND GERMAN HAVE TALKED WITH MICOMBERO AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO STUDENT
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DURING PRESIDENT'S CURRENT ABSENCE IN KAMPALA. INITIAL

REACTION IN GRB SAID TO BE THAT NTAHONDEREYE IS SMALL FRY
WITHOUT RECOWAFQ#THAT THERE WILL TURN OUT TO BE NO GROUNDS
TO DETAIN HIM FURTHER. GERMAN AMBASSADOR SAYS NTAHONDEREYE
NOT RPT NOT BEING JAILED IN MEANTIME. BOTH AMBASSADORS, AS
WELL AS OTHERS, HAVE BROUGHT TO HIGH LEVEL GRB ATTENTION
DESIRABILITY OF HANDLING CASE WITH FULL EYE TO CIRCUMSTANCES
OF DETENTION (REMOVAL FROM INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT),
HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS, A POSSIBLE INFLUENCE ON WORLD PRESS.YOST

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 3 LINE 5 #AS RECEIVED, WILL BE SERVICED UPON
REQUEST

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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